

Hay Urban District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1959

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N. Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....G.G. Evans, M.R.S.H.,
P.H.I.A.



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Hay Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1959

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District during the year 1959.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/60(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....370 acres.

The district is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire and adjoins the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931.....	1509.
	Census 1951.....	1452.
	Estimated Midsummer 1959.....	1420.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years is shown below:

1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959.

1455. 1433. 1439. 1448. 1450. 1450. 1440. 1420. 1430. 1420.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 500, giving an average number of 2.8 persons per house.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop</u>
Legitimate	6.	14.	20.	
Illegitimate	0.	0.	0.	
	6.	14.	20.	14.0

The corrected rate was 15.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.5.

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but appreciably higher than the district death rate.

Illegitimacy. The number of registered illegitimate births was Nil.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	7.	20.	27.	19.0

The corrected rate was 10.8.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6.

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district birth rate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births</u>
	1.	1.	2.	90.9

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20.7.

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average. This illustrates perfectly the effect that a small number of still births has when the total number of live births is also small.

Total Live and Still Births.....22.

Infantile Mortality. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total Mortality rate.....0.
 Legitimate mortality rate.....0.
 Illegitimate mortality rate.....0.
 Neo-natal mortality rate.....0.
 Early neo-natal mortality rate.....0.
 Peri-natal mortality rate.....90.9.

Illegitimate Births per cent of total live births.....0%

Maternal deaths. No deaths during the year could be attributed to childbirth, which was very satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
 Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Other forms of tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Cancer.....Five.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....7. Females.....20.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	1.....
Other malignant neoplasms.....	0.....	4.....
Leukaemia.....	0.....	1.....
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	0.....	2.....
Coronary disease.....	1.....	4.....
Other heart diseases.....	3.....	4.....
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.....
Nephritis.....	0.....	1.....
Other defined causes.....	2.....	3.....

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities. During the year, with the kind co-operation of the County Welfare Committee, a room at Cockcroft House continued to be used. Post Mortem examinations can also be performed in the same building. Hay R.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. also use this building for the same purposes.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in previous years. Mr. G. G. Evans acted as your Public Health Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and the Rural District of Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and Brecon, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed at the Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff and Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

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Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supplies for the town are taken from springs and streams and thence to storage reservoirs, the water is then sand filtered and chlorinated. The two sand filters at the Hay Common Works are used alternatively to allow for periodically cleaning and relaying of the sand.

Although 1959 was a very dry year a full daily supply of water was available to the town although it was necessary to turn off the Hay Common Supply at night from the 9th. July to 20th. November to conserve the amount of water in storage at the Works. Generally the Hay Common Works served the southern half of the town and the Llangwathan reservoir served the northern half of the town.

A check on the mains and service pipes and the repair of many leaks has resulted in a reduction of the quantity of water running to waste.

Number of inspections....15. Number of samples..2(1 satisfactory
1 unsatisfactory)

Hay Area Water Supply Scheme.

During the year further survey work was carried out by the Consulting Civil Engineers in respect of this scheme which is to serve the Hay Urban, Hay Rural and Painscastle Rural Districts.

Approval in principle to the scheme was received from the Breconshire and Radnorshire County Councils, but the observations of the Wye River Board were still awaited.

Letters were received from the Builth and District Water Board and New Radnor Rural District Council concerning the likely demands of those authorities for water from the above mentioned scheme.

Preliminary investigations were made by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and the Ministry have now suggested that during the first years of operation all water required for the scheme should be abstracted from Llanbwchllyn Lake and the proposal to take water from the River Wye at Llyswen should be held in abeyance. Accordingly it is necessary to raise the level of the Lake to gain additional storage capacity, and the Consulting Engineers have carried out further surveys and levels to allow for this, whilst this new suggestion is being reported upon by the Consulting Engineers.

Drainage and Sewerage. Further plans and details were prepared by your Engineer in respect of the Hay Sewage Disposal Scheme and these were submitted to the Wye River Board. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Wye River Board will require additional details, plans and engineering information before the scheme can proceed further. The scheme is further subject to a local Planning and Ministerial Planning Inquiry.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. The work is done by the Council's employees under the supervision of your Public Health Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping. Waste paper is collected and some 19 tons was sent to the mills in 1959.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	21.
Number of complaints investigated.....	21.
Number of premises inspected.....	21.
Number of premises revisited.....	5.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	0.
Number of statutory notices served.....	0.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....25.
 There are 8 licensed premises in the area.
 In addition there are 2 licensed clubs and 2 off licence shops.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....26.

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Tents, Vans, Sheds.

Number of visits.....5.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of investigation or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected.....0.

Rodent Control. One full time operator is engaged by the Council. This same operator is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operator worked under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....	311.
Number of premises found infested.....	48.
Number of premises treated by operator.....	27.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	21.
Number of dead rats picked up.....	53.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....	268.

A total of 19 road gullies were treated during the year and 8 showed evidence of infestation. 14 sewer manholes were also treated and of these 7 were infested.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. There were no houses erected by the Council during the year. There are 43 applicants on the Council's waiting list for new houses; of these 36 are living in houses and 7 in rooms. 14 of the applicants are living in houses which should be considered for demolition.

The applicants could be housed as follows:-

- 10 in one-bedroom flats or bungalows
- 16 in two-bedroom houses
- 14 in three-bedroom houses
- 3 in four-bedroom houses

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Three applications were received and approved for a Grant under the Housing Acts to carry out improvements - the work on one house was completed during the year.

In addition, five applications for Standard Grants were approved and three of these were completed in the year.

Number of housing inspections made.....40.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932(Article 31)

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....106
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....1.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....0.
4. The number of notices serving requiring the execution of works.....0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made.....1.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.....0.
8. Number of houses demolished.....0.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Since the 1st, October 1949 local authorities are left with the licensing and control of distributors or dealers.

Number of dealers registered selling T.T. Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.....1.
There is one dairy registered in your district.

Number of samples taken during the year.....2.
Number of samples reported as satisfactory.....2.

There are two producer/retailers delivering milk in your district and these two hold licences to sell designated milk.

Meat. Three slaughterhouses are registered in the district. All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deal in waste food products.

All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip, after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemed in whole or part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed(if known)					
Number inspected	276	-	1727	97	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerai</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	-	52	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerai	5.43	-	3.01	5.15	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	1.03	-

Cysticerai

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemed	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Condemed. Cattle.....80 lbs. Other animals.....70 lbs.

Other Foods Condemed. Tins.....180. Pounds weight..63.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....189.

Other Foods. There are 34 shops dealing in foods in your district and may be tabulated as follows:-

Grocers.....13.
Greengrocers.....1.
Greengrocer/Confectioners.....3.
Grocer/Baker.....1.
Fishminger/Greengrocer.....2.
Confectioner/Tobacconist.....5.
Restaurants.....4.
Fish and chip shops.....1.
Butchers.....4.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

There are 5 such premises in the district as follows:-

4 butchers preparing pressed, pickled or potted meats and sausages.
1 Baker dealing in bread and cakes.

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Number of inspections made.....10.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food had been necessary, and since there is only one wholesale grocer in the district, the total quantity of food condemned means that such food is not distributed to the shops in the district or to the contiguous areas.

Ice Cream Premises.

There are 13 retailers of ice cream in your district, 11 of these sell pre-packed ice cream, one is a producer/retailer, and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.
Number of inspections made.....34.

Fried Fish Shops. There is one such premises in the district.
Number of inspections made.....12.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Acute pneumonia.....1 case.
Scarlet Fever.....2 cases.

Both of these cases were mild and were nursed at home. The district therefore remained remarkably free from infectious disease. No deaths were due to infectious disease during the year.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....18.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....2.
Number of cases removed due to death.....0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....0.
Number of cases removed as left district.....0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....20.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.
0.	3.	6.	0.	3.	5.	4.	6.	1.	1.	2.

Diphtheria. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HAY IN THE COUNTY OF BRECKNOCK

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

- 1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection tations (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	19	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	20	19	-	-

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2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness S.1	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7 (a)Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	-	-	-
Total	2	1	-	1	-

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health

